

STATEMENT BY LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI ON GOVERNOR'S 2008-09 BUDGET PROPOSAL

SACRAMENTO – Lt. Governor John Garamendi had the following comments today on the proposed budget:

“The budget proposed today fails a very simple test: it does not meet the needs of California.

“Thirty years ago, I began my career in public service hopeful that our state could do more to improve the lot of California’s families. Sadly, the budget debate today is about how our people can get by with less – less education, less healthcare, and fewer opportunities for the future.

“California is at a crossroads. We know we can no longer paper over the fiscal challenges that confront state and local governments, but neither can we abandon our moral responsibility to protect the most vulnerable, or compromise the historic promise of our Golden State.

“There is no question that our state’s chronic structural imbalance calls us to carefully examine our budgeting priorities, remembering that the success of the Golden State over the past half century was based on a robust, entrepreneurial private sector matched by state investments that propelled us into the 21st century.

“This budget will undoubtedly test our resolve – but when tested, California has always emerged stronger. Remember, in the middle of the Great Depression, California overcame political and financial obstacles to build the Golden Gate Bridge – the enduring symbol of California’s spectacular record of innovation and achievement.

“Over the next six months, we face a critical decision -- whether to continue to invest in our future or abandon the historical commitment that made the Golden State.

“With a powerful and diverse economy, a capable and motivated workforce, and extraordinary entrepreneurs, educators, and research facilities, we stand on a strong foundation. I know that working together we can once again meet these challenges and emerge stronger in the years ahead.”

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